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TAGS: [KU](#) [KDMR](#)

SUBJECT: KUWAIT MEDIA REACTION, OCTOBER 17-26: IRAQ: MADRID
DONORS CONFERENCE; WAR ON TERROR; OIC SUMMIT IN KUALA
LUMPUR; TURKISH TROOP DEPLOYMENT; US TREASURY VISIT TO
KUWAIT; ISLAMIC CHARITIES; WOMEN'S RIGHTS

[1](#). SUMMARY: Some MPs oppose Kuwait's support of Iraqi reconstruction, saying money should not be given to the "enemy occupier." A liberal commentator writes that Islamists reject the aid because they are opposed to "liberal concepts." Another comments on the memo by Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld made public this week, saying

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it "demonstrates the failure of the American policy."

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahatir's comments at the OIC Summit last week drew mixed responses, being described by commentators as "worthy of coming from an Al-Qaeda spokesman," and as "courageous and factual." A conservative commentator believes "the lack of any Western response" to comments by Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Lt. Gen. William Boykin is evidence of a "Western double-standard." Another conservative describes Western civilization as "racist and obsessed with power."

A recent visit to Kuwait by a Treasury Department delegation prompts one writer to proclaim, "we will make charitable donations whether America likes it or not." Newspapers report this week the loosening of a ban on money transfers by Islamic charities. END SUMMARY.

[2](#). News Stories: At the Madrid donors conference, Kuwait announced a 1.5-billion-dollar aid package to Iraq, one billion of which has already been disbursed. Al-Anba reports that four MPs strongly rejected donating money "to an enemy who occupied our country" and argued that Kuwaitis should have priority to this money.

Al-Rai Al-Aam and Al-Qabas report on their October 21 front pages that Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, Dr. Abdullah Al-Matooq, declared support for women's political rights with the condition that women who run for office be veiled, do not wear make-up, do not travel without a male family companion, and do not mix with men. He added that Islamists will be the greatest winner if women are granted political rights.

All newspapers report on October 25 that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor loosened a ban on the transfer of charity funds abroad, authorizing five charities to send money abroad, but only through the Central Bank.

Al-Qabas and Al-Rai Al-Aam newspapers reported on October 25 that the Revival of Islamic Heritage Society and the Islamic Social Reform Society denounced Osama bin Laden's threats against Kuwait.

All newspapers report that Yemeni anti-terrorism authorities released a Kuwaiti Islamic preacher, Jaber Al-Jalahma, detained at Sanaa airport. Al-Jalahma is reportedly known for his extremist ideas and has been detained previously by Kuwaiti authorities.

All newspapers report that DNA tests have identified the remains of 11 more Kuwaiti POWs killed by the ousted Iraqi regime.

All newspapers report that Kuwaiti medical doctor, Dr. Ahmed Al-Shatti, was awarded "Man of the Year" prize at the World Awards ceremony in Hamburg for his treatment of the young Iraqi Ali Abbas who lost both arms and his parents during the war in Iraq.

Al-Watan reported that the Kuwaiti security officials apprehended a Syrian interpreter working for the US military for attempting to smuggle whiskey and gin from Iraq into Kuwait.

Editorials:

13. "Political Islam and Iraq"

Director of Kuwait University's Center for Future and Strategic Studies, Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (10/26): "[A number of MPs] object to the government's decision to donate to Iraq [because they] reject the American presence in Iraq and the region. The political Islamists such as the Salafis and the Muslim Brotherhood believe that the American presence in the region may push Arab and Islamic governments to adopt democracy and freedom of expression. and such liberal concepts are rejected by these groups. We thank the Kuwaiti government for its courageous stance. "

14. "Good Morning, Mr. Secretary"

Professor of Political Science Department at Kuwait University, Dr. Ibrahim Al-Hadban wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (10/25): "The memo sent by the US Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld to his senior officers clearly demonstrates the failure of the American policy adopted by President Bush on what is known as war on terrorism. This memo represents an American awakening after the prolonged sleep of the American administration and reflects a misunderstanding of the nature of the Arab and Islamic worlds. However, it is obvious that the awakening of the Secretary was only momentary, for he was able to define the problem but failed to find a solution."

15. "The Worst of the OIC Summit"

Liberal Lawyer Hassan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Qabas (10/19): "The low point of the [Organization of Islamic Conferences or OIC] summit was the statement made the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir. We would have imagined such a statement coming from a terrorist like Ayman Al-Thahawry of Al-Qaeda. Such statements demonstrate to the world that Islam and Muslim leaders are anti-Semitic and therefore grant the right-wing extremists in Israel the ability to act freely."

16. "Running the World by Power-of-Attorney"

Former MP and conservative Shiite Dr. Abdul-Mohsen Yousef Jamal wrote in independent Al-Qabas (10/22): "[US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher] declared that Prime Minister Mahathir's statements were insulting. In return, we have not heard any of these Westerners objecting to statements made by Deputy Undersecretary of Defense Lt. Gen. William Boykin. We hope that the Western-Islamic dialogue can be conducted without threats and ridicule of one's religion. We also hope that everyone be allowed to criticize Zionist terrorism and that [Zionists] not be granted power-of-attorney to run the world and destroy it, especially since they are known for corruption, world destruction, and inciting wars."

17. "Saving Iraq"

Liberal Chairman of the Political Science Department at Kuwait University, Dr. Shamlan Al-Essa wrote in independent Al-Seyassah (10/19): "Despite the fact that six months have passed since the liberation of Iraq, the situation is still unstable due to US mismanagement there. For instance, the American decision to allow Turkish forces to enter Iraq as a peace force is clear proof that the US administration knows nothing about the history of Iraq."

18. "We Will Contribute Despite America"

Dr. Khalid Al-Qhass wrote in independent Al-Watan (10/17): "We will contribute [money] to help the needy and widows and in building Islamic centers whether America likes it or not. We don't care if the American Treasury [Department] delegation objects to our contributions or not. We make contributions to suppress terrorism not to nourish it. We will contribute to prove to ourselves that we have freedom, dignity and the ability to make our own decisions without the need to adhere to the nonsense of the American administration."

19. "It is Over"

Amena Al-Musawi wrote in independent Al-Rai Al-Aam (10/24): "The Zionist attack against Syria, the US-Zionist campaign against Iran under the pretext of its involvement in nuclear program and the green light granted to Israel by President Bush is a scenario written by Israel and implemented by American-Zionists in the American Administration. [W]hat is a real surprise is that there are people who still believe that the US came to this region to grant us the dream of democracy."

10. "Does Islam Have a Civilizing Project?"

Former MP and President of the Gulf Institute for Future and Studies Strategic, Islamist Ismail Al-Shatti, wrote in independent Al-Watan (10/26): "Conflict has always been the basis of relationships in the West, and life is based on a power struggle. Such a perspective has resulted in a racist culture, biased towards certain races at the expense of others, and obsessed with possessing power. This culture has ended up with a capitalist system that worships freedom as

long as it guarantees its progress at the expense of justice. Since creation, history has never witnessed a civilization that has threatened life with extermination and destruction as Western civilization has done, and Man has never seen such a racist and arrogant leadership lead the world towards its downfall with such hysterical speed. The Islamic project cannot keep up with the physical and information achievements of Western civilization. It can, however, present a new perspective, one that redeems the purity [of Man] contaminated by the Western civilization using weapons of mass destruction."

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